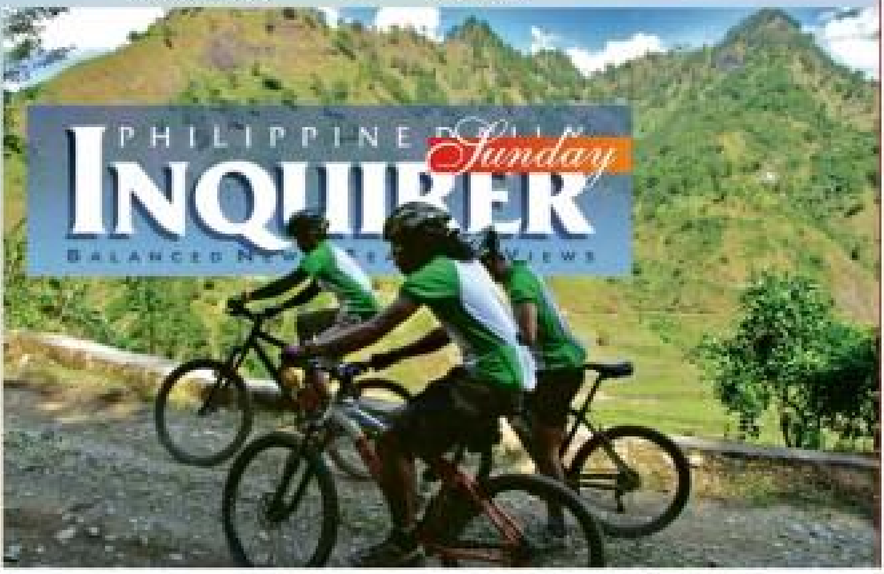
Sunday, August 16, 2009 • Vol. 24 / No. 249

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS • FEARLESS VIEWS

• **Willie says he may** just leave "Wowowee" • Actress finds comfort in another woman's arms / **ENTERTAINMENT**
• **Louie Gonzalez,** Quirino's grandson and Kuh Ledesma's ex-husband, and as elite as they come, is learning a lot in prison / **LIFESTYLE**
• **Investor alleges** she was also Madoff's lover / **WORLD**



BARE BACK MOUNTAIN Benguet bikers pedal 24 hours to draw attention for the need to return the greenness of the naked mountains of the Cordilleras. CHRISTOPHER DALISOY INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

GMA: Annihilate Abus

Basilan clashes lead to fall of bandits' main camp



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED President Arroyo prays for and honors the 23 soldiers killed in action by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists during a virtual hand-to-hand combat in several sites in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, the whole day Wednesday. The operation was aimed to surprise the enemy at its largest camp. Ms Arroyo is accompanied by (from left) Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, chief Western Mindanao Command, Maj. Gen. Juancho Sabban, Adm. Ferdinand Golez, Navy Flag Officer in Command and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Victor Ibrado. Behind, at left, is Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat. EDWIN BACASMAS

By TJ Burgonio and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—ADDRESSing the death of 23 soldiers in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for the "annihilation" of the bandit group on Basilan island.

Ms Arroyo issued the instruction while presiding over a command conference at the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) headquarters here, and later announced that government troops had captured the bandits' "main camp" despite suffering heavy casualties.

Speaking at a news briefing attended by Ms Arroyo, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said the President's "guidance" was that, "first and foremost, the war on terrorism in the island of Basilan should be rapidly concluded and all efforts should be focused on annihilating terrorism (there)."

Ms Arroyo flew to Zamboanga City to view the bodies of those killed and condole with their families, visit the wounded 23 soldiers and a policeman, and preside over the command conference.

GMA: ANNIHILATE A4

Loren: Not premature but advocacy campaign

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. LOREN LEGARDA HAS not made the decision yet to run for President so what she is doing is not premature but "humanitarian advocacy" campaigning.

She is ready to "engage" the electorate in a discussion of national issues through townhall meetings, symposiums and school or barangay assemblies, she said.

And so she did at a recent townhall-style meeting organized by the homeowners of Valle Verde 4 in Pasig City to get to know the prospective presidential candidates.

Legarda criticized Vice President Noli de Castro, Villar and Roxas for spending millions on infomercials ahead of the 90-

LOREN A4

Dreamer puts life on hold to pursue bigger dream

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR A WOMAN WHO REPRESENTS A dream bigger than his own, Ralph Reuben Morales is postponing marriage and giving up a well-paying job.

He believes he is responding to a bigger calling in offering himself to the movement that aims to install Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca as the next President.

Morales, 28, is an officer of the Ayala Foundation. He and Anne Camacho, his girlfriend of two years, had made plans to marry next year.

But he said: "I think this is the time for me to set aside my personal targets. This is already bigger than me."

Morales and other volunteers have set up the Kaya Mo (You Can Do It) Movement to launch Padaca's presidential candidacy even if the governor has yet to announce her moves.

Touched by the support she has been getting, Padaca said: "I don't have the heart to tell them to stop."

Some 20 other young professionals and fresh graduates are directly involved in Kaya Mo, which is backed by other private organizations and a number of businessmen, Morales said.

He said he was drawing strength from the knowledge that he was not alone.

Some 20 farmers in Bicol allotted part of the earnings from their harvests of rice, corn, banana, papaya and coconut to Padaca's campaign.

Other farmers sold the goats and native chickens they were raising and

DREAMER A4



Manoling joins Nat'l Artists fray

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FORMER CENSORS CHIEF Manuel Morato would rather own a Carlo J. Caparas artwork than a Cesar Legaspi painting.

"Carlo is a damn good painter and artist. I have quite a few of his works. He is an inborn talent, unlike (Cesar Legaspi) who studied it all," said Morato, reacting to singer Celeste Legaspi who said that naming Caparas National

MANOLING A4



150 YEARS OF THE GOOD WORD Superior General Antonio of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) officiates at a Mass to celebrate 150 years of SVD's missionary presence in the Philippines at Christ The King Seminary Shrine at E. Rodriguez, Quezon City, on Saturday. Children offer an ethnic dance during the centennial Mass. The SVD consists of 3 provinces with some 460 members engaged in various apostolates and ministries including universities, parishes, communication, street children, trafficked women and indigenous peoples.

A miracle for the girl with big heart

By Dr. Miriam Rosas-Timonera
Contributor

MELANIE ACQUIADIN, 24, WAS perfectly healthy except for a large tumor inside her heart.

The tumor partially restricted blood flow which caused her to tire easily. In a worst-case scenario, the tumor could completely obstruct blood flow and she could die.

Melanie is an only child. Her father is a rubber stamp maker; her mother is a housewife. They were able to send her to college only because Melanie is bright and was able to pass the competitive entrance exam at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, one of the top universities in the Philippines. The school charges P10 per unit for tuition fee.

To augment their income, her parents sold encyclopedias while Melanie worked part time at a fast-food chain. Three years ago, she started feeling tired. Nevertheless, she was able to finish school.

Last year, she graduated with an A.B. in History and by October, she was applying for a job in Cebu.

It was during a routine physical exam that they found the tumor.

The physician screening applicants noted that her chest X-ray showed an

A MIRACLE A4

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second FrontPage

EZ2 [illegible]

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SUERTRES [illegible]

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
5 16 22 31 33 36
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POWER LOTTO 5/55 + 1/10
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P69,237,288.00

Economy struggling, admits finance chief

Like a family having hard time, with father not earning enough, says Teves

By Villamor Visaya Jr.—Inquirer Northern Luzon

CAUAYAN CITY—FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO Teves said the economy, like any family faced with the same situation, was struggling, but raised the hope that the hard times would pass.

"The economy is like a family. The family right now is having difficulty coping in margins. It is struggling. The father is not earning enough and he has to look for more money to provide for the basic needs of the family," Teves, who was in Isabela yesterday, said.

He said the "father," referring to the government, had been incurring a larger deficit compared to the previous year.

External factors

He drew attention to the government's P153.4-billion budget deficit, the P12-billion revenue shortfall of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the declining import tax revenues of the Bureau of Customs.

"The deficit is understandable because the income is affected not through his own fault but through external factors ... maybe his company is affected (by the crisis)," he said, still referring to the mythical "father."

One of the external factors, he said, was the reduced export earnings the Philippines had incurred due to the impact of the recession on buyer countries like the United States, Japan and several in Europe.

The National Statistical Coordination Board said in a report in May that historic declines in manufacturing and trade sent the Philippine economy into "hiccups," thereby [illegible] to a poor growth in gross domestic product (GDP) of only 0.4 percent in the first quarter of the year compared to 3.9 percent in the same period last year.

In a report in August, it said that Philippine exports registered $[illegible] billion in the first half of the year, a decline of 24.7 percent from the $[illegible] billion posted in the same period last year.

'Most difficult'

But Teves remained hopeful that the country would survive the crisis and eventually recover.

"This has been the most difficult situation in the country's economic history but we have seen people overcome these challenges. If we can surpass these challenges, we will be back on the economic track," he said.

To minimize the budget deficit, Teves said he had ordered revenue and customs officials to shape up or face administrative and criminal sanctions if they were found to be remiss in their jobs.

He said the Department of Finance had intensified its campaign of shutting down business establishments found not paying correct taxes or linked to smuggling, and hailing their owners to court.

Judiciary's cooperation

"We need the cooperation of the judiciary now in speedily resolving the cases to show that we mean business against these tax evaders and smugglers. We need to raise revenues," he said.

Teves said Filipinos must have a bigger pie or double to sustain the economy. "As our population has ballooned to 95 million, we need to have an economic growth rate of 6 percent to meet the 2 percent population growth rate a year," he said.

Teves addressed participants at a conference in Santiago City of the Regional Association of Treasurers and Assessors in Cagayan Valley and of a cooperatives' congress.



FAR REMOVED from New York and Washington, a boy and his mother question the $35,000 spent for two dinners hosting President Macapagal-Arroyo and her entourage that could have fed 175,000 Filipino kids. AKAP Bata, a sectoral group that advocates for children, held a feeding program at San Roque Cathedral in Caloocan City yesterday.

Senate prepares to stop Cha-cha

NAGA CITY—The Senate is getting ready for a second round of debates with the House of Representatives over Charter change (Cha-cha), this time to save the country from "land-grabbing" foreigners.

[illegible]

Report on GMA dinner wrong, says Fil-Am paper

THE REPORT ON THE PRICEY DINNER President Macapagal-Arroyo and her party ate at the swank Le Cirque restaurant in New York City on Aug. 3 was inaccurate, according to a Philippine consulate official.

In a text message [illegible] Press Secretary Cerge Remonde, Consul General Cecilia Rebong cited a Filipino-American newspaper's story on the alleged $20,000 tab for the dinner that has drawn condemnation in the Philippines.

Rebong told Remonde that The Filipino Reporter writer Manny Caballero interviewed Le Cirque's contract manager, Mario Wainer, and wrote a story about the dinner that came out in the paper's Aug. 14-21 issue.

In the article, "Mr. Wainer was quoted as saying 'It's a lie' and 'It's far from the truth,'" Rebong said, adding that Wainer said Ms Arroyo and her entourage "had dinner here like everyone else."

Rebong furnished him a copy of Caballero's story, and vouched for the credibility of the weekly, Remonde said.

"Let the document speak for itself," Remonde said, when asked if Malacañang was standing by the New York-based weekly's story. He refused to answer other questions.

The dinner, details of which appeared in the online edition of the New York Post, set off a furor in the Philippines for costing the approximate amount of P1,000,000 when most Filipinos lived in poverty.

The Washington Post followed with its own report saying that President Arroyo and her entourage also had dinner at Bobby Van's Steakhouse after meeting with President Barack Obama on July 30. That dinner for a party of 10 reportedly cost $15,000 or about P720,000. *TJ Burgonio*

Drugstores, hospitals caught selling medicine at old prices

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

HEALTH INSPECTORS YESTERDAY CAUGHT some drugstores and private hospitals violating a new executive order lowering the prices of essential medicines.

The executive order took effect yesterday.

In a press briefing, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said he received reports one drugstore chain was still selling the antihypertensive drug Norvasc (generic name amlodipine) at the old price.

Duque did not identify the chain but ordered the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to take action.

The reporters was shown a copy of an official receipt allegedly issued yesterday by the South Star Drug branch on Mindanao Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, that showed that Norvasc 5mg was sold at P46.25 each.

Under the Maximum Drug Retail Price (MDRP) order, amlodipine 5mg should be sold at P22.85.

"This is our first reported violation," Duque said.

In a phone conversation with DOH officials in Pampanga, Cebu City and Davao City during the press conference, Duque was told a drugstore chain in Cebu City and a private tertiary hospital in Pampanga were found to not be implementing the new regulated prices.

Duque said he was also told that health officials in Region I had noted violations by some drugstores visited by their "mystery shopper."

Health Undersecretary Dave Lozada reported from Cebu City that Rose Pharmacy had not implemented all the price adjustments but promised to finish the adjustments "either today or tomorrow."

Duque warned drug retailers the DOH would impose sanctions and told consumers to keep their official receipts if they had been sold medicine at prices higher than the maximum retail price.

Only small and medium-size drugstores, which have not computerized their systems, and the pharmacies of primary and secondary hospitals were given until Sept. 15 to implement the new prices.

Generally, however, customers in most drugstores were greeted by prominently displayed posters announcing a 50-percent price cut on several basic medicines.

Malacañang placed five common but expensive medicines under price regulation.

Magna Carta of Women bars expulsion due to pregnancy

No tie-up with Lakas for NP

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US Navy conquers kids' hearts at Read-Along



US NAVY OFFICER Halson Allison (right) of the aircraft carrier USS George Washington and Philippine Navy Lt. Minbeck B. Domingo show kids the warmer side of military personnel at the Inquirer Read-Along.

'Awesome experience'

Help another way

GMA: Annihilate Abu Sayyaf



A MOTHER'S LAMENTATION

Financial aid

Main camp captured

Teodoro vows to neutralize MILF rebs in Basilan ambush

'Theirs were cruel deaths'

Hack wounds

7 skirmishes

Coming home



HEROES ALL IN A ROW

Manoling joins Nat'l Artists fray

Pasig native

Top achiever

Other supporters

Why not Dolphy?

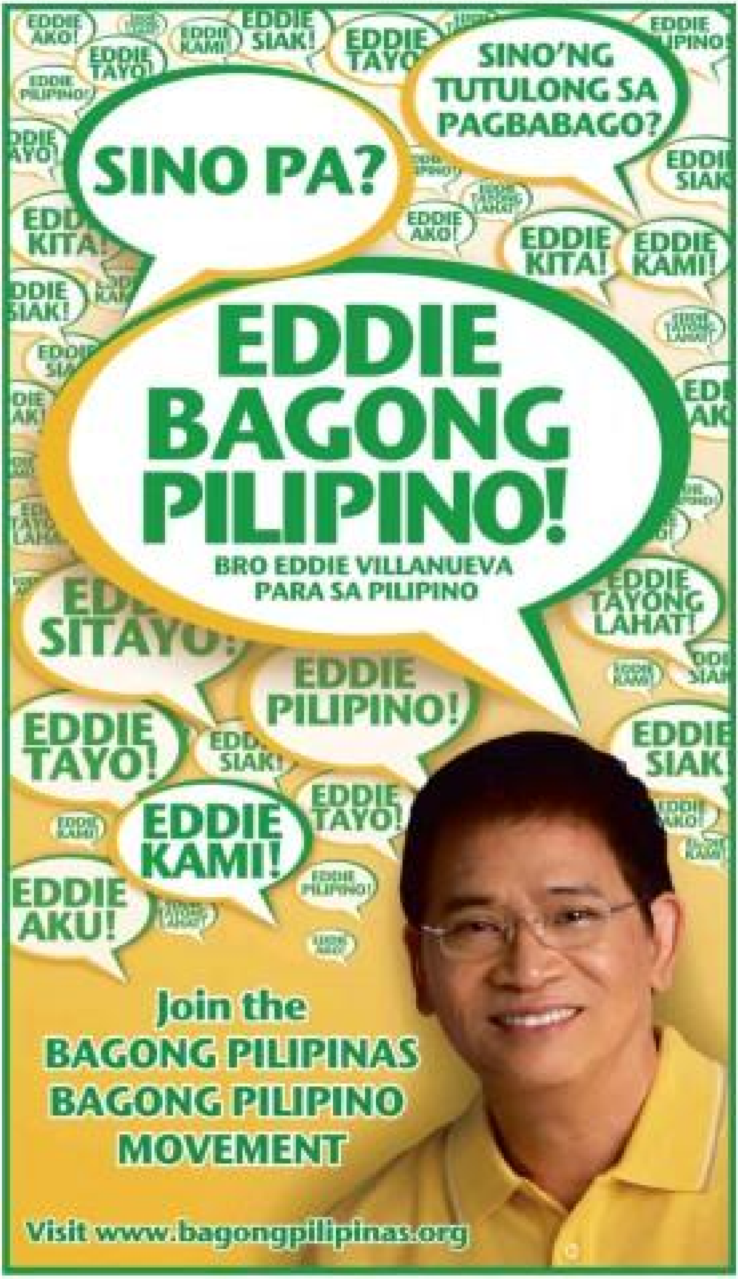
'Last say'

China doesn't take kindly to oil exploration by RP

Asean, China ink another trade pact

Was stoning victim Pinay? RP asks Jordan to check

The Daily Gospel



Dreamer puts life on hold to pursue bigger dream



WEDDING BELLS WILL HAVE TO WAIT

First sight

Hard-hitting

Heart-breaking

Loren: Not premature but advocacy campaign

Captain of the ship

Weekly TV forum

A miracle for the girl with big heart

Blood pressure down

Leaving for Manila

Long shot

Complicated, expensive

The operation

Good afternoon, Doc



TO SAVE A LIFE



"LAUGHING LIKE A LITTLE GIRL"

Solon misused pork, local execs charge

Party-lists seeking House seats have until Monday to register

Opinion

Ominous offensive

Editorial



The Arroyo junket to the US

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

The junketeers should understand that money should be spent for a worthy cause and not the glorification of a tawdry name or a gustatory avarice

The food we eat

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

Is Justice Del Castillo's appointment valid?

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban



Political will to save mothers

AT LARGE

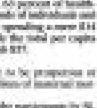
Rina Jimenez-David



Global warming's cheap, effective solution

WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg



The uncrowning of the 'Komiks King'

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista



TALK of the TOWN

Editor: Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Thai PM Abhisit: Out of the abyss

By Leah Makabenta



PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO and Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who made a one-day visit to Manila on Friday, were both swept to power by urban protest movements against populist leaders.

Bangkok elite

Urban protest

Tax-free sale

Anti-Thaksin forces

Sullied reputation

Slim majority

Asean meeting disrupted

Performance report

$44-B stimulus package

Red shirts' stronghold

Bottoming out

Petition for pardon

Listening to grievances

Why they still long for Thaksin

Leah Makabenta

Across the NATION

P1.6B in new Mindanao businesses seen

DAVAO CITY—THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS (BOI) has identified at least 46 prospective investment projects worth P1.6 billion in Mindanao.

Gil Dureza, BOI Mindanao chief, said the availability of so many investment opportunities on the island could position it as one of the country's investment hubs.

Dureza told reporters here on Tuesday that Mindanao's investment opportunities will be presented during the business matching activity in connection with the 4th Mindanao Travel and Tour Expo (MTTE 2009), which will be held here from Aug. 20 to 22.

This year's MTTE is a multifaceted, multisector exposition of Mindanao tourism and related industries, according to the organizers.

The MTTE 2009 is also an official component event of the annual Kadayawan sa Dabaw festival.

P800-M tourist facility

Dureza said the biggest in the list of prospective investment projects in Mindanao is the P800 million agri-tourism project that involves a 400-hectare white sand beach in Davao Oriental.

"Local and foreign investors are expected to join the business matching activity teeing up the efforts of BOI Mindanao to cover a considerable number of joint venture projects," Dureza said.

Lawyer Lucky Balleque, officer-in-charge of the National Economic Research and Business Assistance Center (Nerbac), said half of the 46 projects identified in the whole of Mindanao are in Region 11.

"Most of the projects are tourism-related," he said.

As this developed, Dureza said that six investment projects—which are outside the list of 46 projects they have identified—will start this year.

He said one of the projects is related to medical tourism, a sector that is constantly growing in the city.

Retirement villages

He said also in the pipeline are retirement villages being put up by Filipino and Korean investors.

"An island resort in Davao City is also scheduled to start before the end of the year," Dureza said.

He said the proponents of the six projects are currently processing their documents and are optimistic that they could start before the year ends.

"The country has so far survived the effects of a global recession. *Jody Quilon, Inquirer Mindanao*

DepEd urged to include labor rights in curriculum

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Education should include discussions on labor rights in the curriculum of high schools in the country to boost productivity in the workforce, a University of the Philippines professor said here on Friday.

Professor Cenecio Arcenas, of the UP School of Labor and Industrial Relations, said 70 percent of the country's 37 million workers is composed of college undergraduates and high school dropouts who are unaware of their rights as employees.

"What kind of labor force are you going to have when 70 percent of [this workforce] is ignorant [of their rights]?" he asked.

He said a survey that UP Solair conducted in 2004 showed that the workers' lack of knowledge of the country's labor laws and their rights emanated from poor education.



WOMEN workers throw underwear into the air to protest layoffs at an underwear manufacturing factory, claiming the dismissal of workers was illegal.

Arcenas, who spoke in a lecture series organized by the Department of Labor and Employment at the University of Baguio here, said if the labor force would continue to accept high school graduates, the DepEd should include discussions on basic labor laws in secondary subjects.

"When we speak of the labor rights, we do not only speak of the rights of workers but we also speak of the rights of the capitalists or job providers," he said.

He said little knowledge of these rights would make the workers the weaker party in the labor sector, when a worker is faced with no more choices but to keep a job.

Andrea Galvez, Inquirer Northern Luzon



INQUIRER Mindanao

Legal woes stump Davao killings probe

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

LIKE THE CURSE OF King Tut's tomb, a series of "catastrophic" events befell the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) after it dug up last month a purported burial place of victims of the vigilante group Davao Death Squad (DDS).



Legal procedure

Detainee's complaint

Problematic from start

Due process

Duterte silent

NEWS

'Banning early ads goes against free speech'

By Leila B. Salaverria

BANNING THE ADVERTISEMENTS OF PEOPLE who have not yet filed their certificates of candidacy is tantamount to trampling on freedom of speech, according to a former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law and a member of the Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa).

[illegible]

Aplus Metro



BF Homes folk hit TRO on water project



Appeal vs acquittal of Gonzalez readied

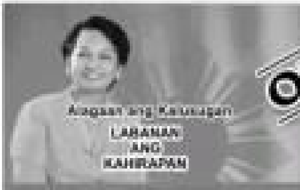
Train runs over man in Makati

MetroBriefs

2 face raps for collecting P5M as salaries for 'ghost' employees

Rice allowance 4 times a year





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Filipino optometrist serves Burmese migrants for free



Free of discrimination

Dr. Cynthia's vision

No questions asked

Aung San Suu Kyi

Serve from the heart

Why longtime residents risk being deported

IMFO

Lourdes Santos Tancinco

Quick fixes

Final orders of deportation

Lessons from Ruel

The WORLD

Taiwan leader apologizes for slow typhoon response



LIUKUEI, TAIWAN—TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT MA Ying-jeou bowed to public anger on Saturday, apologizing for his government's slow response to Typhoon Morakot, which devastated central and southern parts of the island.



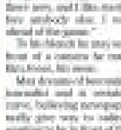
US kid embarks on good news dream

Colombia allows US use of military bases

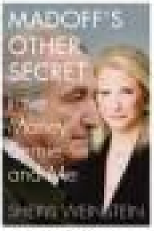
Missing ship spotted off Cape Verde

Fraudulent lawyers preying on US illegals

Iranian clerics try to mute rape claims



Investor alleges she was Madoff's mistress



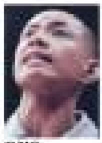
Sunday SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE
- Tams keep streak alive /A22





Qatar rips listless Powerade-RP five



QUANQ



Yeng explains coaching style

2 NCAA stars share honors

Tams keep streak alive

Defang Tigers; Maroons squeak past Bulldogs



Commish becomes avid RP 5 fan

IN HUDDLE



High-flying Eagles, skidding Archers tangle anew



BLACK



PUMAREN

SPORTSWATCH

Xavier, Ateneo flog Milo hoop foes

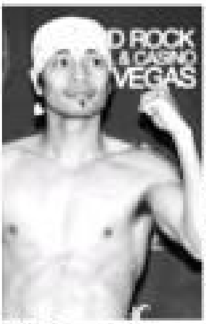


PARENTS RELAY

Wack Wack President's Cup golf tourney slated

63-race festival set next week

RACING TIPS



Donaire fights overweight Panamanian

Concepcion eyes feather crown



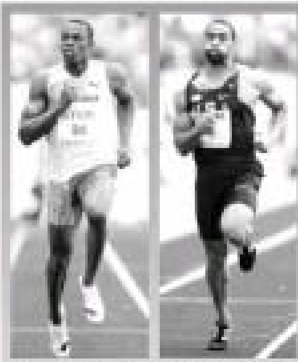
Lady pugs may end Olympic drought



Qatar rips listless Pinoy five

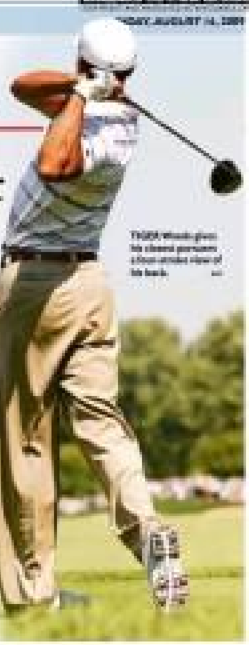
Honolulu title defense for 'Hawaiian Punch'

Senator eyes equal pay for all athletes



Peping: FEI observer should have key role

Sunday SPORTS



Tiger zooms ahead by 4

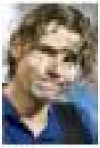
Halfway lead is his largest since 2005 British Open

Paddy bunker shot 'worth the price of admission'

Rogers Cup: Federer, Nadal get boot



FEDERER



NADAL

Pucay now 3rd, just three behind Thailand golf lead



PUCAY



LASCUÑA

Phelps cited for invalid license

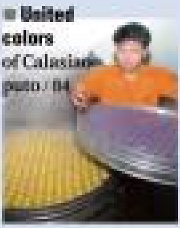
Business Features Editor: Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday Biz

IN THIS ISSUE







A matter of trust

Federal Land takes page from book of Metrobank

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.



FEDERAL Land president Alfred Ty

TRUST IS A BIG WORD THAT FIGURES prominently in the vocabulary of the Metrobank group of companies. Without it, the conglomerate believes it would ultimately fail.

It was in banking where Metrobank built an enviable name for itself, and it is using the same approach of gaining and maintaining the trust of customers in growing its fast-growing property subsidiary.

"We treat property development like banking; they're both built on trust," explains Alfred Ty, president of Federal Land Inc., the property subsidiary of the Metrobank group.

Confidence

Real estate development requires a big amount of confidence and trust placed on the developer, as the buyer forks out cash when making a purchase solely on the basis of an architectural rendering of a house or a high-rise, hoping the developer lives up to its end of the contract.

This is why Federal Land embraces the same DNA that its parent, Metrobank Group, continues to build: Building its resources block by block, patiently developing its track record of high quality structures, carefully and surely.

With more than 50 projects under its wing, Federal Land has steadily built a reputation as a trusted developer for nearly four decades.

The core of the company's building philosophy is embedded in the level of satisfaction in every family living in its developments.

In designing a building, Ty advocates the practice of not only considering the pains and costs of construction and sales, but ensuring that buyers enjoy living in the units.

"We believe that there is always something we can do to improve from the last project that we have done. Lifestyles are constantly evolving; thus, we also need to constantly find ways to improve, be it design, material finishes, sports amenities, or even plants in the garden," he says.

The company has even brought condominium living standards a notch higher by being one of the first to build hotel-like suites (with higher than standard glass to ...) and provide more than ample amenities—swimming pool, clubhouse

► FEDERAL B2



ARTIST'S perspective of The Grand Midori Makati



FAÇADE of The Capital Towers

People, Events & Products

Globe holds first Agri Entrep Fair in Isabela



LOWE MANILA'S SELECTA CAMPAIGN BAGS GOLD TAMBULI

Made in Thailand Exhibition 2009

SCTex boon to investors, residents

CeFaM workshops on marriage, parenting

ROL-Marriage Encounter in Tagaytay Sept. 4



SINGAPORE AIRLINES, STB LAUNCH PROMO

UP School of Economics Grand Alumni Homecoming set Sept. 19



PCS '74 IN FUND-RAISER WITH CHILD FOUNDATION

CUA ELECTED DELL PARTNERS ADVISORY COUNCIL CO-CHAIR



Feel the fear and do it anyway

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell



Facts about fear

Destructive effects of fear

Three responses to fear

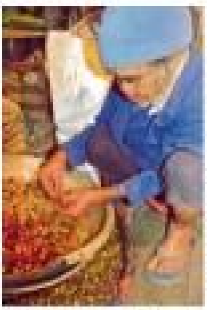
How to constructively face fear

Closing





Cordillera farmers sitting on valuable coffee gold mine



GOINGS-ON

Accenture academy marks first graduation

Smart Money center in Polillo

Wedding Expo turns 'Green' at 15

United colors...



Hard work

A matter of trust

Speak softly, carry a big stick

What is important is priceless

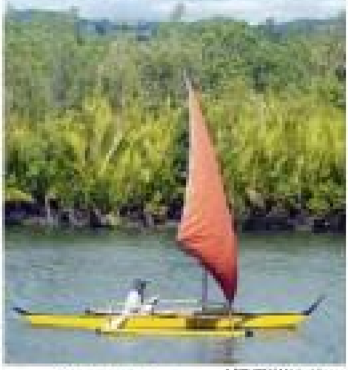
Taking the slow boat to profit from ecotours

Sunday Biz



United colors of Calasiao puto

Taking the slow boat to profit from ecotours



Cambuhat opens itself to hardy travelers





Sunday LIFESTYLE



Behind bars but free in spirit—that's where the prominent prisoner is now


[illegible] visiting him in jail

Louie's rude awakening

By [illegible]

SINCE LANDING AT THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) jail last year, Luisito "Louie" Gonzalez has learned to speak fluent Tagalog, play the card game tongits and enjoy the noontime show "Wowowee."

[illegible]

Horrible Tagalog

[illegible]





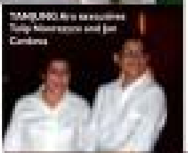


'Why not pay as if you're traveling domestic–but you're actually going overseas?'



Wedding bells and honeymoon sunsets–in Kota Kinabalu







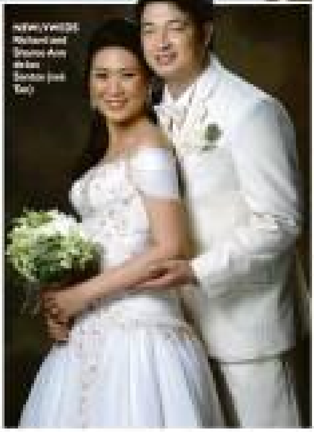
Ad campaign for Taiwan's No. 1 ice cream showcases Bohol's attractions



Kadayawan showcases Mindanao's culture and natural attractions



THE COUPLE with the groom's family: Brothers Alfred, Edward, Raymond, Arnold, Wilfred and mother Grace de los Santos; and the bride's family: Josephine T. Pinas, Angelo and Mary de la Cruz, Stephen James and Stephanie Tan, and Reynold Michael Tan



NEWLYWEDS Michael and Sharon Ann de los Santos (née Tan)

Youngest representative weds dashing businessman-contractor

A FITTING CLIMAX to a storybook romance—this was the dream wedding held at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Manila Metropolitan Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila.

The bride was Rep. Sharon Ann T. Tan of the 2nd Congressional District of Samar, second daughter of Samar Gov. Milagrosa T. Tan. The groom was young businessman-contractor Richard "Mike" C. de los Santos of a prominent clan in Legazpi City and the second among the six good-looking sons of politician matriarch Grace C. de los Santos.

The couple met over a year ago through a mutual friend. Their nuptials, held July 23 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Intramuros, was presided by the Most Rev. Jose C. Sorra, DD, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Legazpi; Most Rev. Reginaldo S. Agbayani Jr., DD, Bishop of Calbayog; Most Rev. Joel Baylon, DD, Bishop of Masbate; Rev. Msgr. Honesto



WITH THE principal sponsors

Mandeda; Rev. Msgr. Jun Conan; Rev. Fr. Butch Bonifacio, OP; Rev. Fr. Jose Victor Lobrigo; Rev. Fr. Edgardo Alvarez, OP; and Rev. Fr. Bonifacio Ocena.

The bride wore a Helen-of-Troy-inspired all-white Cecilia Abad creation. She was walked down the aisle by younger brother Stephen James T. Tan. Her groom, in a white Randy Ortiz suit, eagerly waited with his brother, organizer Raymond C. de los Santos.

Rep. Edcel C. Lagman of the 1st District of Albay and Rep. Abelina Rodriguez-Zaldarriaga of the 2nd District of Rizal, led the principal sponsors.

The sponsors also included Mayor Mario Quilban, Mayor Linda P. Gonzales, Rep. Teofisto Guingona Jr., Renato R. Brabante, Gov. Joey S. Salceda, Gloria L. de Leon, Gov. Raul A. Daza, Eduardo L. Santos, Gov. Carlos Antolin J. Sevilla, Victor Garcia, PRD Commissioner Marcelino C. Libanan, Genaro C. Dimaano, Joel L. Alino, Manolo Ernest T. Ang, Romeo R. Tan, Sarah R. Espaldon, Marco N. Alcantara M. Limjoco Jr. and Josephine T. Pinas.

Looking good in their Grecian-inspired gowns and smartly turned-out tuxedos were the secondary sponsors: Rep. Ben T. Gonzalez and Rep. Ma. Carmen G. Caoagdan-Zamora; Rep. Irwin C. Tieng and Rep. Rachel J. Arenas—veil; Rep. Glenn A. Chong and Rep. Ma. Evita R. Arago—cord.

Arnold C. de los Santos was Best Man. Angelie Tanada la Cruz was the Matron-of-Honor. Bridesmaids were Tiara Marie T. Pinas, Mary Rose T. Moraleso, Elizabeth T. Garcia, Cynthia C. Bregalde, Ma. Lourdes C. Dimaano and Arlene C. Garcia. The groomsmen were Reynolds Michael T. Tan, Wilfred C. de los Santos, Edward C. de los Santos, Alfred C. de los Santos, Marion Victor T. Garcia and Manuel Miguel T. Garcia.

Ring bearer was John Michael C. Uy, coin bearer was George Anthony B. Tan, Bible bearer was Karl Daniel D. Rabalan, and the flower girls were Sophia Dana D. Tan, Sofia Renee E. Perdanalla and Mary Ann Bernadette D. Co.

Tribute

The wedding motif of crimson red and gold was reflected in the ladies' gowns. Florist Ronald Hechanova of Napa City also made full use of the crimson and gold motif, which dominated the eye-catching flower arrangements.

About 1,000 guests, relatives and friends gathered at Fiesta Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La for cocktails and formal dinner reception.

The program's highlight was a video tribute to the couple's deceased fathers, businessman Ricardo S. Tan and contractor-engineer Freddie C. de los Santos.

Entertainment numbers were provided by Jacks' Queen of Song Pilita Corrales and the singer-songwriter and comedian Ogie Alcasid.

Northern Samar Gov. Raul A. Daza and former EP Member Rebel Hussein danced the popular Samar dance "Karatsa," usually performed during special occasions.

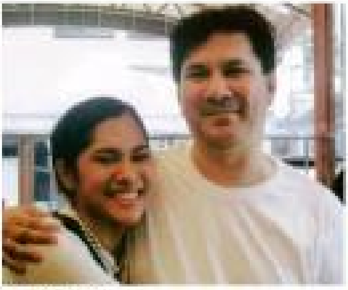
The bride, a pharmacist, was elected to Congress in May 2007. Then only 26, she became the youngest representative in the 14th Congress.

Louie's rude awakening

From page F1

years now for a "politically related" crime, considers Gonzales his "BFF" (best friend forever).

"Ako-one no Kung gumising si Louie," Turingan says with a laugh. "[illegible]" (Louie wakes up at 11. We read the newspaper together and afterward, we talk about politics and other issues. We will miss him when he's released.)



WITH DAUGHTER Isabella



WITH mom, Vicky Quirino-Delgado, and stepdad, Don Paco Delgado

No 'plastikan'

For Gonzales, his inmates are family. Every day his older sister Ruby Gonzales-Meyer comes food for everyone at the NBI jail.

"I couldn't stand their eating while I'm eating so I asked my sister to bring more food so I could share it with them," says Gonzales, who has been a godfather to an inmate's child and [illegible] married couples.

"Our little brother was a spoiled brat who often got into trouble," Meyer says. "But he has changed tremendously. He has earned their respect and camaraderie. At times, I will bring him brand-new shirts. Instead of using them, he will give it to his friends here and continue wearing the old ones."

Louie had even given his Bible to an inmate charged with [illegible] and who had to be transferred to another jail.

"In jail, there's no plastikan unlike in the outside world. You can have real relationships here. I've even realized who my true friends are," says Gonzales, adding that he doesn't miss the high-society parties he used to attend.

He was already a "reborn" before the tragic incident. "I had [illegible] with the New Friends I have," he says.

For Gonzales, a successful life is helping transform one person or reaching him to have faith in God.

Important things

Humility, patience and compassion are the most important things he learned in his imprisonment.

"I've learned to follow the rules, go along and live with everyone, whether one is nice or not," Gonzales says. "Definitely, my faith has grown. Sometimes, God puts you in difficult situations like being falsely accused in order to make you closer to Him. Of course, at first I was angry for what happened to me. But I've learned to pray and surrender everything to God. Now, I'm at peace with myself."

The incident has been a wake-up call for Gonzales: "Our mother would always tell us that we don't appreciate freedom because we didn't experience the war. Now, I know what she was telling us then. This is my war now."

His family and girlfriend support Gonzales' struggle to the hilt.



WITH sisters (from left) Marisa, Ruby and Marlene

His 23-year-old daughter Isabella regularly visits him, sometimes with her mother, Rafi Ledesma. A few days ago, Louie relates, Isabella was with a couple who runs an orphanage in New Zealand and in the Philippines.

Last Christmas, his two other sisters made the big effort of having a family reunion in jail. Marisa and her husband Allen Grafals flew in from Madrid, Spain. Marlene, her daughter Audrey and her partner Luc Fabre flew in from Geneva, Switzerland.

On the other hand, Maria Pereira, his girlfriend of 13 years, takes care of his nine small pooches. "She comes here every day and brings two of the dogs," Gonzales says. "She's much younger than me but she's gone through so much."

Once he gets out of jail, Gonzales will resume his [illegible] or he can marry Pereira. "For now, I just want to go home and play with my dogs, who are like my children."

Dine out and fight hunger

A MEANINGFUL CHARITY initiative is organized by The Miele Guide, Asia's very first independent restaurant guide. Fifty-seven of Asia's best restaurants in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will offer special promos in support of The Miele Guide Restaurant Month. About 15 percent of revenues from these promotions will be donated to the United Nations World Food Programme in aid of their activities to combat hunger and poverty in Timor Leste.

Amanda's in Tagaytay and Asi Media Pte. Ltd. also join Miele Guide in supporting the World Food Program (WFP).

The restaurant offers its best-selling menu until Aug. 31, where 15 percent of the revenue will be donated to WFP. Tel. 0918-8992860, 0917-8992860.

Sunday LifeStyle

It's Cory's simplicity

Korina, 'next First Lady'

High-flying act

How to heal emotional scars

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa



NOTHING HAPPENS BY COINCIDENCE. I think that the term "God-incidence" is the more appropriate term.

A few days ago, I was invited to speak at the launch of a new anti-scar gel whose Rangle was the product endorser. I was asked to speak on how to heal emotional scars. Apparently, the organizers felt I had something worthy to say considering the life experiences I have had and the work that I do in grief education.

I decided to draw up six points people could use to heal emotional scars. It was an acronym, STRAPS, so they would remember it better.

When I got to the venue, I asked for the product information to see how to work it into my talk. When I read it, the product had six components that matched my six points.

Here are the six points I have found helpful in healing emotional scars:

Self-care is very important in the process of healing. One needs to get adequate rest, a healthy amount of sleep. Eat properly and exercise even if you don't want to, because the endorphins released while working out have positive effects on one's disposition.

Time does heals all wounds is a fallacy per se. What you do with time helps you heal your wound. No one has the right to tell you to get over your loss in three or six months or one year. There is no prescribed period for grieving. As long as you are not harming yourself or the people you love, do what you need to do and take time to do it. Don't rush—healing is a proactive process.

Reaching out to others is one of the most important tools I use in healing my emotional scars. In stepping out of the shadow of sadness, you are helping not only others, but yourself too. By comforting others who are hurting as well, your world broadens. Soon, you will realize that your pain is so small compared to the hurts of the world.

Art therapy helps release emotions that have been blocked or bottled due to the scar. Find a creative outlet you enjoy like writing, journaling, painting, music, poetry, pottery. There is something in the creative process that gives room to what lies beneath, to the unspoken hurt. Sign up for a class or buy a book that can help you discover what art therapy is best for your situation.

Prayer and thanksgiving is another helpful component in the healing process. The happiest people in the world are those who are always grateful. Stop whining and complaining about your situation or surroundings. Count your blessings and thank Him for giving you another day to heal.

Support is an invaluable resource. Surround yourself with positive people who understand you and who are willing to be a witness to your pain. Find yourself a safe harbor where you can rest when the storms of life batter you. Anchor yourself on God but also find friends and family, or seek professional help to see you through the dark nights.

As I was approaching the venue that morning, I felt a little blue, having to draw from the well of my experiences to be able to share something substantial with the audience. I was greeted by the sight of blown-up photographs of flowers in full bloom. Above them was the quote: "The darkest nights blossom into the brightest mornings." Another God-incidence to provide me the comfort I needed just before the talk. I'd like to think it was His way of telling me: "Throw your blues out the window. Remember why you are here."

Email the author at cathybabao@gmail.com.

SVD celebrates 100 years in RP

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang



THE SOCIETY OF THE DIVINE WORD (SVD) celebrates its 100th year in the Philippines this year. Since the arrival in 1909 of the first two SVD missionaries in San Isidro town, Abra, the SVD has steadily grown in number and apostolate in the country and has sent missionaries to foreign missions.

Papal Nuncio Edward Joseph Adams will lead a concelebrated Mass on Aug. 22, 9 a.m., at St. James Cathedral with Bangued Bishop Leopoldo Jaucian and the clergy as co-celebrants.

The centennial celebration began Aug. 13 with a concert of talents from SVD institutions (schools, parishes, seminaries) in the Arena in San Juan. A thanksgiving Mass was held at Christ the King Seminary Aug. 14 with Fr. Superior General Antonio Pernia, SVD, as main celebrant. Aug. 15 saw a grand alumni homecoming at Christ the King Seminary. Aug. 20 will be the SVD Homecoming in the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City.

"Bangued" Bishop Jaucian will lead parishioners and visitors in the event "Bangued" in Penarrubia, Abra, Aug. 21. Traditional rites of welcome will be performed by Abra ethnic groups.

Fr. Pernia will say Mass at the Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in San Isidro, the first parish of SVD in the Philippines.

SVD in Laoag

My roots on my father's side are all graduates of St. William College (now Divine Word College of Laoag). It followed that I also study there after high school as the then Holy Ghost Academy run by SSpS nuns. The school became Holy Spirit Academy. The Society of the Divine Word Fathers came to Laoag in 1948.

My SVD education served me in good stead because it prepared me to embrace this commitment to spread the word of God through my column. It was a calling, though I didn't know it then. It was only when I launched my book, "Purely Personal Book of Miracles," on Sept. 8, 2006, that I realized why I didn't get married.

I had been destined to do this work since kindergarten at Holy Ghost Academy.

SVD has been in the Philippines for 100 years now. Congratulations to us alumni of SVD schools.

Remembering Msgr. Nico

Family and friends of the late Msgr. Nico Bautista who passed away on July 22 will gather at Magallanes Church, Aug. 30, 7 p.m., at the Mass celebrating the 40th day after his passing.

On the ninth day of his passing last July 30, his brother Rodolfo recalled during the Mass how he would see the young Fr. Nico kneeling inside his old room in their parents' house, praying for long periods.

Rudolfo, being a priest, Fr. Nico, Rudy thought, should have spent the time praying inside his church. Rudy then realized that his brother was a very prayerful man. He also was a committed priest.

Fr. Benny Tuazon, parish priest of Magallanes Church, recalled in a letter (read by Bobby Caballero) that even when he was already sick, Msgr. Nico still attempted to celebrate Mass at the St. Alphonsus Liguori Church where he was parish priest in the early 80s.

Fr. Benny would assist him. Msgr. Nico told Fr. Benny at one time: "You would be my deacon."

May your soul rest in peace, Msgr. Nico.



APPLAUSE AND: In the Vatican: Mercy Tuason (seated, third from right) poses with friends during despedida for her at the Elong Palace: Karen Macasaet, Basita Lesaca, Thelma Gana, Imelda Cojuangco, Letty Syquia and Aurora Biamonte; (standing) Ado Escudero, Mene Locsin, Allen Borgos, Marietta Santos, Vito Lobo, Helen Ong and Danny Dalay

Ambassador Mercy Tuason

Mercy Tuason is leaving for Rome soon to assume her post as Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See.

She's set to bring 20 statues of Mary Mediatrix of All Grace (1.5 ft tall) and 100 smaller statues for the Filipino communities in various parts of Italy. She told me when we met at the residence of Bobby Sevenario that she will send them in freight containers.

She believes in the apparitions of Our Lady in Lipa, Batangas, to Sr. Teresing Castillo, under the title "Mary Mediatrix of All Grace."

Goodbye, Ronnie Alejandro

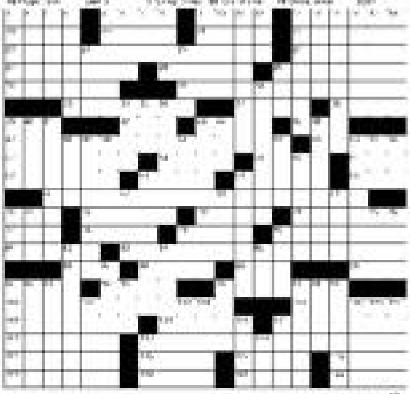
A very dear friend, Ronnie Alejandro, passed away in New York on a First Friday Aug. 7. Ronnie will always be remembered for the many unforgettable books he had written, especially on Filipino hospitality and cuisine. I am inviting Ronnie's friends to attend the Mass on Aug. 19, 6 p.m., at Malate Church.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD / By Frank A. Longo — HARDWARE STORY

ACROSS [illegible]

DOWN [illegible]



answer on page D3

He plans to live with his two families in one house

EMILY'S POST
Emily A. Marcelo



DEAR EMILY,

I am a 45-year-old OFW, Muslim, happily married for 10 years now, with two children.

I had a first wife who I divorced after 10 years of marriage. I have three children with her, ages 18, 16 and 12. They are still studying; I pay for their and their sustenance.

Lately, my ex-wife and I have been communicating regularly since she and our children live together. Because of our frequent international calls, I started falling in love with her again. I told her she is still the one I love and she said she feels the same for me. She admitted she is not happy with her husband. She is more than willing to divorce her husband so we can get married again next year.

Our three children are very happy about this plan.

As a Muslim, I'm allowed to marry more than one. My problem is my present wife, if she will allow me to take another, specifically, my first wife. My life will never be complete unless we stay under one roof again, to live together forever.

HUSBAND WITH A PROBLEM

How receptive is your present wife to the customs of your culture? Positive? Negative? Couldn't care less? You're not suitable yet, as you are already planning to come home for good, the reason why you want to remarry your ex? If so plans are in the offing, why rock the boat? Why not allow both your families to maintain the status quo—that is, continue their separate lives—until you come and are physically present to make the final decision?

You've proclaimed you've been "happily married" to your present wife these past 10 years. Can't you survive just be propinquity, meaning, having all of them under one roof and being able to do a roll-call of your "assets"? Unless you're willing to lose one for the other, it will be for your peace of mind that you put things in perspective. Will the husband of your ex-wife just make trouble? Are there kids in this other marriage?

How will the finances be apportioned? Will there be enough to make each family happy? If you can successfully have two wives—what's to stop you from having a third or fourth? Could all these longings and thinking about forever be just loneliness on your part—being so far away from everyone? Can this imagined isolation be playing tricks on your mind—egging you down with "can't live without you love" and all that jazz?

Not all love stories end up happily ever after. There's such a thing as reality. And reality, like it or not, often sucks.

(Send your e-mail to emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle)


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WORLD PRESS 2009 AT SM MALL OF ASIA

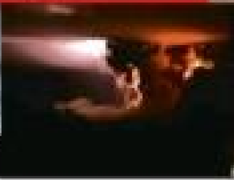
SM Mall of Asia, the Philippines' premiere lifestyle destination, is home to exceptional events and entertaining features that elevates the Filipino malling experience to global standards. From August 15 to 23, MOA will be host to the iconic images of the World Press Photo Exhibit 2009.

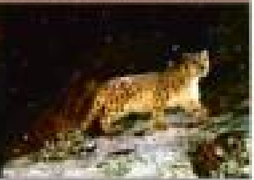
The 2009 World Press contest attracted 96,298 photo entries from 5,508 photographers based in 124 different countries. The World Press independent jury, consisting of 13 members, judged those entries and selected less than 200 to make it to the final exhibit. The World Press exhibit is an annual showcase of high-quality photojournalism and is shown at about 100 venues all over the world. The Manila leg of the exhibit is presented by Unilever Philippines, Konrad Adenauer Asia Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, The Podium, SM City North Edsa, and SM Mall of Asia.











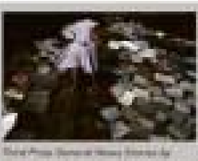


Featured in the exhibit are photographs from some of the world's best lensmen in the field of photojournalism. Centerpiece of the exhibition is Anthony Suau's winning photograph—a black-and-white image that dramatically captured the global financial crisis that has gripped the recent months. The picture is of Detective Robert Kole of the Cuyahoga Country Sheriff's Office entering a home in Cleveland, Ohio on March 26, following a mortgage foreclosure and eviction. He needed to check if the owners have indeed vacated the premises and that no weapons have been left lying around. Officers enter with their guns trained in front of them as a precaution as many foreclosed and abandoned houses have been vandalized by drug addicts who have settled in the empty structures.

World Press jury chairwoman Mary Ann Golon said, "The strength of the picture is in the "contrast." It's a double entendre. It looks like a classic conflict photograph, but it is simply the eviction of people from a house following foreclosure." She also disclosed that the jury agreed that great journalistic photography provides answers to questions. "The image is an ominous one. We're in a new kind of war—a war of economics—and it has arrived to invade our lives and our homes."

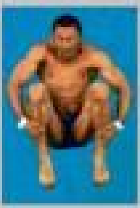


195 other photographs will be seen in this prestigious photo exhibit, each of them depicting images and ideas that will define our time—our heroes, villains, joys, tears, triumphs, and failures—for generations to come. Current history as documented through the cameras of the world's best photographers is the main appeal of the annual World Press Exhibit. Another momentous event brought to you by the country's lifestyle hub SM Mall of Asia—no other mall comes close!



195 other photographs will be seen in this prestigious photo exhibit, each of them depicting images and ideas that will define our time—our heroes, villains, joys, tears, triumphs, and failures—for generations to come.







WORLD PRESS PHOTO 09

AUGUST 15-23 | Main Mall Atrium

Sunday LifeStyle

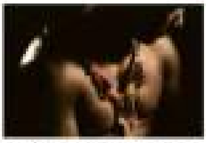
IN THIS ISSUE
Louie Quirino's rude awakening /C1

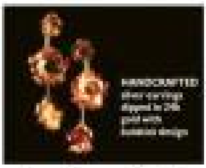
Let us now praise astounding women

Not a ranking or an exhaustive list, just a series of feel-good anecdotes

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes







New from Pepito Albert: Designer jewelry

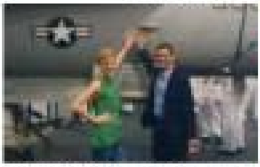
T'N'T Trends & Trendings



Anton San Diego





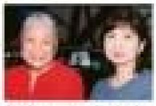


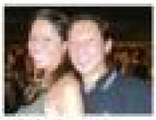




Let us now praise astounding women

From page F1









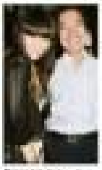


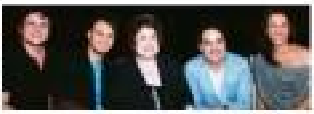


Empowered

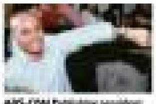
Household name

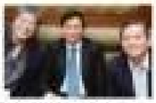






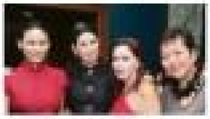


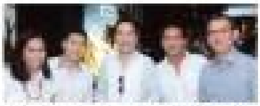






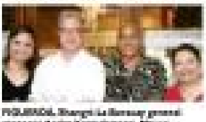
Jampacked







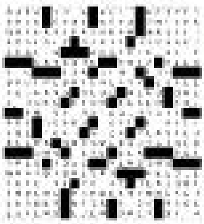






New from Pepito Albert: Designer jewelry

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Hottest dinner in town

Holiday collection



ACE HARDWARE'S OMNI CHALLENGE

It was truly an enlightening weekend when Ace Hardware and Omni recently held the Omni Challenge at SM Southmall.

Through the challenge, Ace Hardware, the Helpful Place, showed DIY enthusiasts how energy saving can be fun with the use of proper lighting. Omni Lights have long been known for their energy saving qualities, as well as their warmth, efficiency, and style. And the challenges showcased just that.

The event had three challenges - the Circuit Test Game, where players were tasked to take turns in running the coil without triggering the mechanism; the Giant Chess Puzzle; and the Prize in a Hole, a golf inspired game where contestants can tee in for instant prizes. Participants were asked to present a minimum purchase receipt of Omni products from Ace Hardware, and those who won all three challenges were entitled to a Grand Slam Prize.

Omni lighting products are available at Ace Hardware stores at SM Makati, SM Cubao, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Marikina, SM City Manila, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Bicutan, and the SM Mall of Asia; as well as SM Supercenters in Pasig and Valenzuela. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Rosario, Dasmariñas, Molino, Batangas, Lucena, Clark, Marilao, Baguio, Rosales, Baliwag, and Sta. Rosa in Luzon; as well as Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro in the Visayas area. These are also available at Ace Builders Centers at SM City North EDSA, SM City Fairview and SM City Pampanga.



In the Giant Chess Puzzle game of OMNI Challenge, customers are given three chances to beat the opponent.



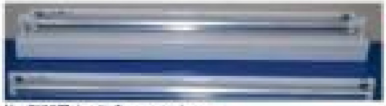
In the Prize in a Hole game of OMNI Challenge, simply choose which 6 holes to put in the golf and win corresponding prize in each hole.



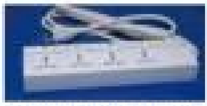
In the OMNI Challenge game at ACE Hardware Southmall, the customer tries to finish the circuit test in two minutes.



OMNI Sales Manager Honson Chua presented the latest OMNI product, Mini Global Lamp to ACE Hardware's Assistant Vice President for Operations, Robert Cruz. Also in the photo is Mr. Fernie Gumagay, ACE Hardware store Southmall manager.



New OMNI T5 ultra slim fluorescent fixtures



This new OMNI Electrical and Wiring device has overheating protection, power indicator light and compatible with different plugs.



These OMNI candle bulbs create a warm white and daylight atmosphere.



OMNI's circular lamp can give up to 70% savings on electricity bills.



This new OMNI Mini Global Lamp fits easily into standard socket and also reduces power consumption.

Through the challenge, Ace Hardware, the Helpful Place, showed DIY enthusiasts how energy saving can be fun with the use of proper lighting





Spanish ambassador graces Dia de Santiago celebration



Cebu Cebu

Jaime Picornell

'Tipid-Sulit' launch

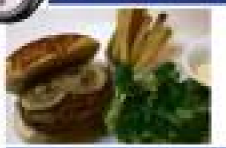


JUST LIKE A PRO

Professional photographer Alex Van Hagen trades his camera for the Nokia 6700 classic for one photo-shoot discovering that not everything has to come in large packages.











ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Coming back soon to SM cinemas



DRAMA QUEEN

Actress finds comfort in another woman's arms **Rushes** /Page F4

Willie says he may just leave show

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE CASE OF THE "GROSSLY unethical conduct" of "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame during the show's Aug. 7 episode was the subject of an adjudication committee hearing at the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board offices in Quezon City on Thursday afternoon.

Gradual hearing

M M T A MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Walter Mart

Son's arrest 'devastating' for Douglas

MJ short films, music videos

Dingdong in 'Sexiest'

Coming soon...

Actress finds comfort in another woman's arms

By the Entertainment staff

SHAME-RESPECTED ACTRESS has finally recovered from her loss. Her friends are glad that she has stumbled upon a new companion—no matter that it's another woman.

In a recent party, BA was spotted being extra sweet with Blonde Rice. At another event, BA was escorted by SS, who brought her child and mother along. The mom, herself an Acclaimed Actress, seems to approve.

Blinded by love

Concerned friends are worried because Gay Host seems willing to face bankruptcy just to give New Love certain luxuries.

A mole says GH's savings are being drained by NL who's young enough to be GH's grandchild. Apart from building a house for NL and his family, GH takes the kid to trips abroad.

Plus, GH willingly takes a cab while NL uses his car and chauffeur.

Keep off the boy

When Gorgeous Star started going out with Matinee Idol, she was reportedly called to the bosses' office.

Executives of the network where GS and MI work said the fledgling romance could have an adverse effect on the career of MI, currently the channel's top money maker.

In short, GS was told to keep her hands off the boy. Ouch!

There's a flip side to this story, though. MI used to be the lover of Lady Executive ..., so perhaps the bosses' warning was tinged with concern for LE, who may be overly jealous.

Job security

Controversial Celebrity seems well-entrenched in his network, in spite of many scandals hounding him.

CC is said to have bought the former conjugal residence of the network's Big Boss—to the tune of P75 million. How's that for job security?

Oscar moment

In a public forum, Sex-work Star was asked a rather embarrassing question about her love life—specifically, romance with a radio/drama. But before a response was forthcoming, SS testified in pain, supposedly because of cramps. Thus, the meeting was dissolved and the question remained unanswered. An insider gasped, "Who knew SS could also give an Oscar-winning performance?"

Dancing in MOA

TV director Mark Reyes recently worked on his biggest live event for Jollibee and its marketing communications agency, Heartworks. Known for his work on teenage-oriented shows and telenovelas, Reyes directed a surprise dance number by 500 teenagers with their family and friends at the Mall of Asia. The spectacle was thoroughly enjoyed by mall-goers and the online community. Videos of the event, meant to launch Jollibee's Yumburger campaign for teens, have been circulating on YouTube and can also be found on www.theyumburger.com.

Mayor Pitt?

NEW ORLEANS—The idea of Brad Pitt running for New Orleans mayor has generated a lot of buzz around the city even though he isn't eligible. It also generated some laughs for the actor in a Thursday television interview.

Many residents have been sporting "Brad Pitt for Mayor" T-shirts since mid-June, when a Tulane University professor and two brothers who own a New Orleans T-shirt shop joined forces to launch a spoof-campaign to convince Pitt to run. The actor founded the Make It Right organization in 2007 to build houses for low-income residents who lost their homes during Hurricane Katrina.

"He's a family man, and you won't have to worry about him being corrupt," said Drew Gardner, 28, who works at a New Orleans pastry shop and has a "Brad Pitt for Mayor" sticker on his laptop computer. "Plus, he'll help the movie industry here in New Orleans and keep a light on the city."

Pitt said on NBC's "Today" that he's noticed the shirts but laughed off the idea of running.

"I don't have a chance," he joked. "I'm running on the gay marriage, no religion, legalization and taxation of marijuana platform." AP

Happy birthdays!

Celebrity birthdays for the week of Aug. 16 to 22:

Today: Robert Culp is 79; Eydie Gorme, 78; Julie Newmar, 76; Kathie Lee Gifford, 56; James Cameron, 55; Tim Farriss of INXS, 52; Angela Bassett, 51; Madonna, 51; Timothy Hutton, 49; Steve Carell, 46.

Tomorrow: Maureen O'Hara is 89; Robert DeNiro, 66; Sean Penn, 49.

Aug. 18: Roman Polanski is 76; Robert Redford, 73; Patrick Swayze, 57; Denis Leary, 52; Madeleine Stowe, 51; Christian Slater, 40; Edward Norton, 40.

Aug. 19: Jill St. John is 69; Ian Gillan of Deep Purple, 64; Peter Gallagher, 54; Kyra Sedgwick, 44; Kevin Dillon, 44; Matthew Perry, 40.

Aug. 20: Jimmy Pankow of Chicago is 62; Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin, 61.

Aug. 21: Kenny Rogers is 71; Kim Cattrall, 53; Hayden Panettiere, is 20.

Aug. 22: Roland Orzabal of Tears for Fears is 48; Tori Amos, 46; Howie Dorough of the Backstreet Boys, 36; Jeff Mosier of Simple Plan, 31.

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in PDI tabloid Bandera this week. (And only so we noted, if we are noted.)

The hype on Bea

• Bea Alonzo suspends debut boy John Lloyd Cruz. (On or off screen?)

• Bea, desperado sa hype inspired? (No comment.)

• Sam takes no takers sa Antonov si Bea. (Desperado?)

• Pinili raw dapat ipagsalo si Angelica Panganiban, Dabdi Ramona Bea walang medyas. (Actually, di dapat mo-mamatay, 'di ba?)

Republic of Dedina

• Raja Salvador dalawang beses nang kinasal si Carlo Aquino. [illegible]

• Karylle dinalaw ang birthday ni Dingdong Dantes. (And where was she supposed to do?)

• [illegible] si Jackilou ang pasa kay Ronaldo Herminio. [illegible]

• Anne Curtis [illegible]

E-mail us: [illegible]inquirer.com.ph



BECAUSE she's promoting a movie, Bea Alonzo is the favorite of muckrakers this week.

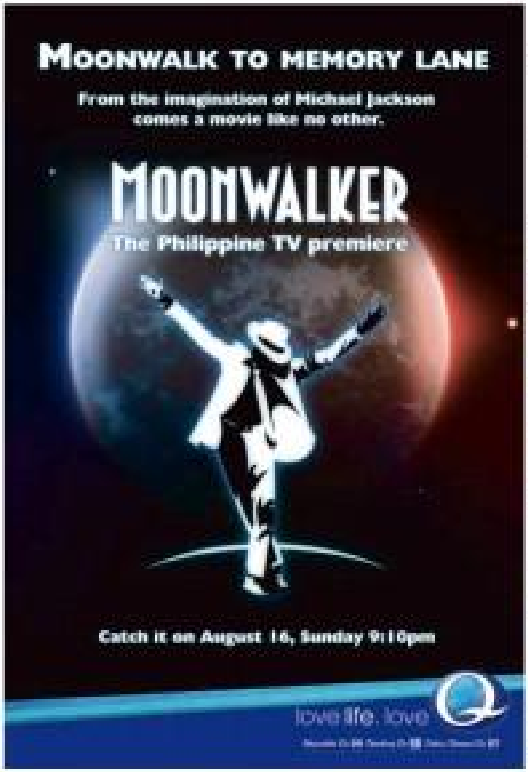


SEAN Penn turns 49 tomorrow, Robert de Niro turns 66, Christian Slater and Edward Norton both turn 40 Tuesday.



BRAD Pitt is convinced there's no way he'd be elected mayor of New Orleans. AP







Distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, Philippines

Eco-friendly RP girl sent to UN meet

NICKELODEON has picked 10-year-old Caroline Sabagan as The Big Green Help Shell Environmentalist to represent the Philippines at the United Nations Environment Program 2009 Tunza International Children's Conference in Daejeon, South Korea starting tomorrow until Aug. 20.

The conference will be attended by emerging leaders who will air their call for action on climate change.

Sabagan won this year's essay-writing competition organized by Nickelodeon and the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), with the support of Shell Singapore.

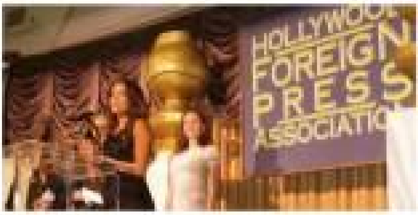
Sabagan's winning essay spoke about global warming and the importance of conserving the environment for the future generation. Sabagan is passionate about recycling and believes that the solution starts with small things done at home, such as waste segregation. She seeks to explore ways to spread the message to protect and preserve the beauty of the environment.

Sabagan joins 700 kids from over 100 countries to learn and voice their environmental concerns.

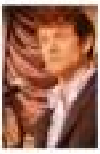
ENTERTAINMENT













Clockwise, from far left: Newly installed Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) members Ali Sar and Phil Berk; Eva Longoria accepts the check on behalf of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers as co-host Rose McGowan looks on; Chris Pine, second from left, who accepted the donation on behalf of University of California Los Angeles, with newly installed HFPA director Ruben Nepales, Janet Nepales and Maria Amaya; Hugh Dancy accepts the donation on behalf of Outfest; Dylan McDermott and Evan Rachel Wood.



When stars hop, skip to get checks

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—CHRIS PINE was so glad to receive a $50,000 check on behalf of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) that he skipped the short stairs and instead hopped onto the stage. The newest heartthrob, whose mom and sister went to UCLA, then happily posed with the check, one of the many that the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) gave away in financial grants to film schools and nonprofit organizations on Tuesday afternoon during its annual installation and grants luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

The "Star Trek" actor was among the stars who graced the event, which celebrated the installation of HFPA's new officers and board members and the presentation of a total of $1,259,000 in grants to film-related charities and educational institutions. Philip "Phil" Berk, the president of the nonprofit group of international journalists that presents the Golden Globe Awards, remarked that the success of the annual awards show has allowed the HFPA to make generous charitable contributions. Actress Rose McGowan, the on-again-off-again fiancée of director Robert Rodriguez, joined Phil in announcing the grants.

Crisis

The HFPA, deeply aware of how California's financial crisis has reduced funding in the state's public colleges and universities, voted to donate grants to schools, including California State University (CSU) Long Beach and Northridge.

Evan Rachel Wood and Dylan McDermott, who were at our table, received checks on behalf of CSU Northridge and FilmAid International, respectively. After their separate moments onstage, each of the two actors happily handed the checks to the representatives of these institutions.

Evan, looking beautiful in her upswept locks, told us that she was having the time of her life filming her scenes as Louisiana vampire queen Sophie-Anne on HBO's "True Blood."

Eva Longoria got the check for the Latino Producers Academy and apologized that she had to leave right after because she had to go back to work on the "Desperate Housewives" set. Hugh Dancy followed Chris and also hopped on the stage to receive the grant on behalf of Outfest. "I wasn't 100 percent sure I would make that jump over the podium," admitted the British actor with a grin. None of the stunning actresses in their towering high heels dared to spring to the stage the way Chris and Hugh did.

Mind-boggling

[illegible] played up the admission [illegible] of Warren Beatty, who picked up a check for The Film Foundation, that he misplaced his 1962 Golden Globe for Most Promising Newcomer trophy and that he requested for a replacement. It boggles one's mind to think that 1962 was almost half a century ago. Phil told us that Warren will get his brand new trophy next week. The HFPA had stopped giving that award many years ago.

The Asian sector was represented by Rex Lee of "Entourage," who expressed gratitude on behalf of the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE), which actively develops and promotes opportunities for Asian Pacific Americans in the entertainment industry.

During the champagne pre-luncheon reception, the talented Emmy Rossum, who's in the headlines for her reported split from Justin Siegel, [illegible] that summer is almost over. Anyhow, Emmy, who represented the California Summer School for the Arts Foundation, looked fetching in a short nouveau white dress.

"Juno" director Jason Reitman, who collected a check for the Los Angeles Conservancy, said he couldn't wait

PAGE G2





When to dare and bare

VIEWFINDER



If you really want to make a strong impact beyond the sexy pictorial route, keep your clothes on

'Chef Abroad'

'Idol' without Paula

Feedback







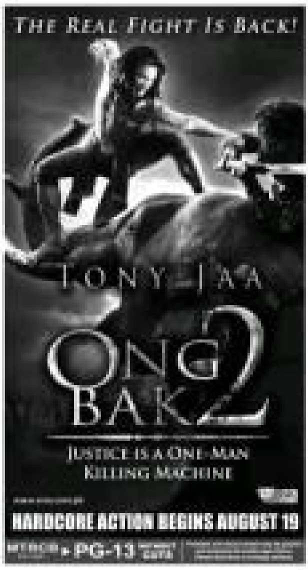


'Madz about Love' at CCP



SAM CONCEPCION

Sam in Noah musical





When stars hop . . .

One more time for Willie

FEEDBACK







MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA
1 G.I. JOE
2 THE PROPOSAL
3 THE HANGOVER
4 BOOK OF BLOOD
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 ORPHAN / G.I. JOE
7 HARRY POTTER 6 / LITTLE BOY BIG BOY
8 G.I. JOE
9 SHOWBOYZ
10 AND I LOVE YOU SO

ERMITA
1 HARRY POTTER 6 / BOOK OF BLOOD
2 THE HANGOVER
3 G.I. JOE
4 G.I. JOE
5 AND I LOVE YOU SO
6 AND I LOVE YOU SO
7 ORPHAN / THE PROPOSAL

METRO EAST
1 G.I. JOE
2 G.I. JOE
3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 THE HANGOVER
5 THE PROPOSAL
6 ORPHAN
7 HARRY POTTER 6
8 AND I LOVE YOU SO

NOVALICHES
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 THE HANGOVER

PIONEER
1 G.I. JOE
2 THE HANGOVER
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO



STA. ROSA
1 G.I. JOE
2 KAMASUTRA NIGHTS 2
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

LIPA
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 THE PROPOSAL
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

DASMARIÑAS
1 THE HANGOVER
2 G.I. JOE
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

IMUS
1 G.I. JOE
2 THE HANGOVER
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

STARMILLS
1 THE PROPOSAL
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO
5 G.I. JOE
6 ORPHAN

ANGELES
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 ORPHAN
4 AND I LOVE YOU SO

TACLOBAN
1 AND I LOVE YOU SO
2 G.I. JOE
3 THE PROPOSAL

BACOLOD
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 PUBLIC ENEMIES
5 BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE
6 THE PROPOSAL

ILOILO
1 G.I. JOE
2 AND I LOVE YOU SO
3 AND I LOVE YOU SO
4 PUBLIC ENEMIES
5 HAUNTED
6 THE PROPOSAL



Lady with legs wide open



THEY GOT IT. The Araneta Coliseum crowd gives the Lady some hot love.

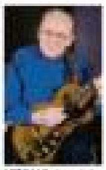
By Pocholo Concepcion

LADY GAGA SURE KNOWS how to make her audience go wild.

Turning dirty

'The original guitar hero'

NEW YORK—Les Paul, a virtuoso guitarist and inventor who shaped the sound of rock 'n' roll, died Thursday of severe pneumonia in New York state, the Gibson Guitar Corporation announced. He was 94.



LES PAUL, shaped the sound of rock 'n' roll.

Rock stars speak out

AFP, AP